

**Board of Health Meeting** - Tuesday, September 13, 2016 7:00 p.m.  
116 Main Road, Tyringham

Board members present - James Consolati, Christopher Johnson, Matthew Puntin.  
Others present - Molly Curtin-Schaefer. See attached list.


The mail was read, previous minutes were approved. The Pledge of Alligance was recited.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

The Berkshire Mosquito Control had a positive West Nile Virus case in the trap on Breakneck Road. The attached notice was posted and blasted via email.

**POND:** James Wilusz completed the Town beach sanitary survey assessment and made recommendations in a full report which is on file in the Selectmen's office.

Meeting adjourned 7:05.

  
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Matthew Puntin, Chairman  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Christopher Johnson, Clerk  
\_\_\_\_\_  
James Consolati, Member

# Town of Tyringham



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## **TYRINGHAM BOARD OF HEALTH**

Matthew Puntin, Chairman – Christopher Johnson – James Consolati

**Press Release September 1, 2016**

### **Mosquitoes test positive for West Nile Virus**

The Berkshire County Mosquito Control Project regularly monitors the larval and adult mosquito population and tests for mosquitoes carrying the West Nile Virus or Eastern Equine Encephalitis virus. The Massachusetts Department of Public Health has confirmed the presence of West Nile Virus in a sample of mosquitoes collected in the Town of Tyringham. To reduce the mosquito population and potential for infection, truck-mounted mosquito spray application is scheduled for Thursday night, 9/1 after midnight, on streets within a one mile radius of Breakneck Road.

This application will not leave significant residue and is not persistent in the environment.

West Nile Virus is most commonly spread through the bite of an infected mosquito. The best way to protect yourself and your loved ones from mosquito borne illness is to take the following precautions.

- When outdoors, wear long pants, a long-sleeved shirt and socks.
- Use a repellent with DEET according to the instructions on the product label
- Keep mosquitoes out of your house by repairing holes in screens and making sure screens fit tightly to doors and windows
- Schedule outdoor events to avoid the hours between dusk and dawn, when mosquitoes are most active
- Remove areas of standing water around your home to eliminate sources of mosquito breeding

To request no-spraying on your property you can call the BCMCP or send a request via email including name and property address, [berkmc@bcn.net](mailto:berkmc@bcn.net). For more information contact the Berkshire County Mosquito Control Project at 413-447-9808.

For more information about mosquito borne viruses visit the Massachusetts Department of Public Health website at: <http://www.mass.gov/dph/wnv>.

**JAMES J. WILUSZ, R.S.**  
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August 16, 2016

Town of Tyringham  
116 Main Road  
Tyringham, MA 01264  
Attn: Molly Curtin-Schaefer, Town Administrator

**Re: Tyringham Town Beach Sanitary Survey Assessment and Recommendations**

Dear Molly,

Over the past couple of weeks, I have been analyzing, assessing, inspecting, and have conducted a series of field data collections in order to offer the town my best recommendations regarding the health and safety risk factors for the public that utilize the town beach.

In order to offer the best tools and resources for the board to decide on an action plan for the town beach, I have broken the recommendations into a tiered category based on a cost/benefit perspective. The lower being actions you could take that may not require significant resources to the higher tiered approach that may require capital resources that may influence greater change to the beach.

Overview

Tyringham Town Beach is located just south of Main Road in town. The pond is just southeast from Shaker Pond. Hop Brook is the source that feeds the pond. It is done manually where it is piped into the front end of the pond (just left of the beach area). The town of Tyringham has been inspecting and sampling for bacteriological presence for *e. Coli* going back as far to 2008.

The pond is rather shallow and small in diameter. On the north side (outlet) of the pond is a valve system that helps to control the level of pond and discharges just north of the pond. The area surrounding the pond is very well maintained, has a picnic table and grill area and is aesthetically inviting. This area is also surrounded by the Appalachian Trail.



Currently, the town of Tyringham permits and oversees the beach in accordance with 105 CMR 445.000, State Sanitary Code, Chapter VII, Minimum Standards for Bathing Beaches. According to records, the beach has struggled to maintain water quality and has had bacteria exceedances where additional action(s) was needed to comply with applicable regulations.

## Findings

### Sanitary Survey Results

On August 13, 2016, a formal sanitary survey assessment was conducted at the location. A sanitary survey is a method of investigating the sources of fecal contamination to a water body. Sanitary surveys are typically used for drinking water, shellfish, and watershed protection programs.

At the time of the survey, all surrounding areas around the beach were well maintained. No debris, trash, or other potential environmental harms were identified. The picnic table and grill area were clean and grass was well maintained. **There were however, significant amounts of bird feces in the beach area and along the south entire perimeter of the beach. This is a factor that may influence an increase in bacteria counts.**

Bacteria samples were collected (see map location) of the pond and Hop Brook. The two samples collected at Hop Brook were located at the inlet point that feeds the pond and approximately 100 yards upstream. Two samples were collected at the pond; one by the dock and the other on the southeast part of the pond. There was a high presence of algae growth (filamentous algae-nontoxic) and at the time of the survey, the pond was very stagnant and no water movement within the pond was identified.



There was a strong sign of aquatic life; many fish, frogs, and crayfish were identified. This is an indicator that the pond is not yet at an anaerobic state. There perhaps is a small availability of dissolved oxygen.

In summary, with the exception of the bird feces, stagnant water and algae growth, the surrounding area is very well maintained. The pond location however, is heavily influenced by the watershed that feeds Hop Brook, which is strongly influenced by the surrounding farms and its potential cattle and animal runoff.

Analytic results of the samples collected did not yield fecal coliform nor *e. Coli* presence. However all four samples came back with a too numerous to count (TNTC) for an atypical bacteria. However, further investigation and sampling will be needed to determine the exact point source cause of bacteria levels. There could be many factors in why all four samples had a bacterial presence. It's important to note that on August 15, 2016 during routine beach sampling, results came back with zero *e. Coli* presence which is within compliance of the regulation.

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN / BOARD OF HEALTH**

Date: Sept. 13, 2016

TIME - 7:00 NAME- Nancy Nylan

7:00 Steve Cowell

7:00 Mark J. Curtin